**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

*Please amend claims as follows:*

Claims 1-23 (Canceled)

24. **(Currently amended)** A method of determining whether an individual is ~~**or has been**~~ infected with *Neisseria gonorrhoeae,* said method including the step of ~~**using**~~ **subjecting a biological sample obtained from said individual to nucleic acid sequence amplification using one or more oligonucleotides under conditions which facilitate amplification of said isolated porA nucleic acid of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, if present in said biological sample, to produce an amplification product comprising a nucleotide sequence comprising residues 681-812 of SEQ ID NO:10** ~~**one or more oligonucleotides to detect said isolated porA nucleic acid of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, if present in a biological sample obtained from said individual**~~, **wherein** a presence of said **amplification product** ~~**porA nucleic acid**~~ indicating that said individual is ~~**or has been**~~ infected with *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*~~**, wherein said one or more oligonucleotides are not capable of hybridizing to a porA nucleic acid of *Neisseria meningitidis* sufficiently to enable detection of said porA nucleic acid of *Neisseria meningitidis* if present in said biological sample**~~.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said method includes the step of distinguishing said isolated porA nucleic acid of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* from a porA nucleic of *Neisseria meningitidis* present in said biological sample.

26. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim **[[25]] 24**, wherein said porA nucleic acid of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* is distinguished from another Neisseria species other than *N. meningitidis*.

**27-28. (Canceled).**

29. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim **[[28]] 24**, wherein nucleic acid sequence amplification is performed under conditions which facilitate amplification of said isolated porA nucleic acid of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* to a detectable level but which

do not facilitate amplification of **[[said]]** **a** porA nucleic of *N. meningitidis* to a detectable level.

30. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 29, wherein nucleic acid sequence amplification is performed using one or more PCR primers ~~having~~ **comprising** a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:2.

31. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim **[[27]]** **24**, **further including the step of using** ~~wherein said~~ one or more oligonucleotides ~~comprise a~~ probe**s** for detecting said amplification product by probe hybridization.

**32. (Canceled).**

33. **(Currently amended)** The method of **[[32]]** **31**, wherein the probe ~~is has~~ **comprising** a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:3 and SEQ ID NO:4.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein detection of said amplification product is performed using fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET).

35. **(Currently amended)** A method of determining whether a human individual is ~~or has been~~ infected with *Neisseria gonorrhoeae,* said method including the steps of:

(i) subjecting a biological sample obtained from said human individual to nucleic acid sequence amplification using primers ~~having respective~~ **comprising** nucleotide sequences **selected from the group consisting of** ~~according to~~ SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:2, to produce a porA *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* amplification product from a *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* porA nucleic acid if present in said biological sample; and

(ii) detecting said amplification product, if present, by probe hybridization and fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET) using oligonucleotides ~~having respective~~ **comprising** nucleotide sequences according to SEQ ID NO:3 having a donor fluorophore and SEQ ID NO:4 having an acceptor fluorophore, whereby a

presence of said porA amplification product indicates that said individual is ~~**or has been**~~ infected with *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*.

**36-47. (Cancel).**

48. **(New)** A method of determining whether an individual is infected with *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, said method including the step of detecting a nucleotide sequence of an isolated porA nucleic acid of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, if present in a biological sample obtained from said individual, wherein a presence of said nucleotide sequence indicating that said individual is infected with *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, wherein said nucleotide sequence is of an amplification product obtainable by nucleic acid sequence amplification using PCR primers having a nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:2.

49. **(New)** The method of claim 48, further including the step of using one or more oligonucleotide probes for detecting said amplification product by probe hybridization.

50. **(New)** The method of claim 50, wherein the one or more oligonucleotide probes comprise a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:3 and SEQ ID NO:4.

51. **(New)** The method of claim 50, wherein detection of said amplification product is performed using fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET).

52. **(New)** The method of claim 24, including the step of subjecting the amplification product to nucleotide sequencing.

53. **(New)** The method of claim 48, including the step of subjecting the amplification product to nucleotide sequencing.